

Stone Rural District Council.

ECCLESHALL DIVISION.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to your notice my Annual Report on the Sanitary conditions of the Eccleshall District for the year 1904.

I enclose the Tables required by the Local Government Board.

The number of births registered during the year was 117, BIRTH-RATE. against 130 for 1903, and 20 below the average for the preceding 10 years. The birth-rate, with the population estimated at 5,611, was 20·8 per 1,000, compared with 23·1 for 1903. In the year 1894 there were 159 births registered.

There were 77 deaths registered at all ages, giving a death-rate DEATH-RATE. of 13·9 per 1,000 of the estimated population. In 1903, the deaths were 67, with a rate of 11·9 per 1,000. The average for the preceding 10 years was 74 deaths with a rate of 12·9 per 1,000.

The number of deaths in children under one year of age was 10, compared with 7 in 1903. The infantile death-rate per 1,000 of registered births was 85·4, against 53·8 for 1903. The average for the preceding 10 years was 13 deaths, with a rate of 100 per 1,000 registered births. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In each locality the number of births and deaths (at all ages), and the rates per 1,000 of the estimated populations, were as follows:—Eccleshall, estimated population 3,813, births 76, rate per 1,000, 19·0, deaths 57, rate per 1,000, 10·4; Swynnerton, estimated population 805, births 19, rate per 1,000, 23·6, deaths 9, rate per 1,000 11·1; Standon, estimated population 422, births 5, rate per 1,000 11·4, deaths 4, rate per 1,000 9·4; Chelsey and Cold Norton, estimated population 570, births 17, rate per 1,000 29·8, deaths 7, rate per 1,000 12·2.

ZYMOTIC
DEATH-RATE

There were only two deaths under this heading during the year, one due to measles, and one to enteric (typhoid) fever, giving a zymotic death-rate of .35 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with .17 for 1903. The following table gives the comparative figures for the past 10 years.

Table I.

Years.	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Deaths registered at all ages.	4	4	3	5	5	5	6	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 of the population.	.66	.60	.40	.81	.80	.70	1.0	.17	.17	.35

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases of this disease during the year.

VACCINATION.

The following table shews the results of vaccination in the district from the middle of 1903 to the middle of 1904.

Table II.

Two Districts.	No. of Births	Successfully Vaccinated	Died Unvaccinated	Postponed	Insusceptible to Vaccination	Left District Unvaccinated	Conscientious Objectors	Still Unvaccinated
Eccleshall and Swynnerton	127	117	7	2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

Notifications.

There were nineteen notifications received under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act during the year, compared with five in 1903. Of these, two were due to diphtheria, two to erysipelas, fourteen to scarlet fever, and one to enteric (typhoid) fever.

SCARLET
FEVER.

One case was at Slindon (imported), three at Offley Brook, the infection here undoubtedly came from the neighbouring parish of Adbaston, where the children attended school. One was at the Upper Heamies Cottages, in Chebsey Parish. Two isolated cases were in Croxton Parish, one at Golden Hill and one at Langot Lane. In the month of October there were seven cases at Offley Hay. The disease was evidently spreading amongst the scholars in the National Schools there, so the schools were closed for one month; before re-opening school the school-room was thoroughly disinfected and the threatened epidemic was successfully stopped. Seven of the above cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Yarnfield, and the remainder isolated at home.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases, both were certified by bacterial examination at Birmingham University. One case was in the Kerry Lane, Eccleshall, this one was undoubtedly imported. The other case was at Croxton, here defective drainage was the only apparent cause of the outbreak.

ENTERIC
FEVER.

One case of this disease occurred in Eccleshall, in September. The case was undoubtedly imported. It terminated fatally.

There were a few isolated cases of measles in Eccleshall Parish in May and June, one case terminating fatally. There was an epidemic of this disease at Yarnfield in December, necessitating the closure of the National Schools there. MEASLES.

This disease was very prevalent in Cotes Heath Parish in May, and necessitated the closing of the schools there for three weeks. MUMPS.

This disease was again prevalent in the earlier months of the year, generally of a mild form, but two deaths were registered as being primarily due to it. INFLUENZA.

The National Schools at Cotes Heath were closed for three weeks in May on account of mumps. At Offley Hay for one month, from October 24th, for scarlet fever; at Yarnfield for three weeks in December, for measles. SCHOOL CLOSURE.

There were five deaths registered due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, four in Eccleshall and one in Chebsey Parish. This gives a phthisis death-rate of .89 per 1,000 of the population of the whole district. There were four other cases (deaths) due to tubercular diseases other than phthisis, these were all in Eccleshall Parish. PHTHISIS.

Eight deaths were registered uncertified, giving a death-rate of 1.4 per 1,000 of the population. UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

I have analysed ten samples of drinking water. At two cottages in Chatcull, where the supply was found to be bad, it has been improved, after notice being served on the owner. The new cottage at Walford is still without proper water supply, the occupants having to fetch their water from the neighbouring farm. This house was occupied in May last year. WATER SUPPLY.

The "Old Hall" at Mill Meece has been closed, and I believe is shortly to be rebuilt. Two houses at Acton were condemned, but they are still occupied, and nothing has been done. Unclean houses were dealt with at Acton and Yarnfield, the occupants in each case are very dirty, and the nuisances, though improved, are liable to recur. One case of overcrowding in Eccleshall was abated after notice. There is much room for improvement in the dwelling houses of the labouring classes throughout the district, they are generally too small and badly ventilated. DWELLING HOUSES.

The nuisance near the "Old Hall" at Mill Meece has been abated, all the sewage has been diverted from the pit, which has been partially filled up. Farm yard drainage in many parts of the district is very defective and a source of danger to the health of the occupiers, notably is this the case at Cotes Lodge, Hatton Mill, and Hill's Farm, Croxton. In Chebsey village the drainage is defective, sewage being allowed to flow into the stream running by the roadside. A long-standing nuisance on the Gaol Butts, Eccleshall, has been abated, caused by refuse on the roadside. I inspected two carcasses seized by your Sanitary Inspector on April 8th, both were unfit for human food and condemned, both carcasses were destroyed, the owner was summoned and fined £20. SEWAGE, &c.

Seventeen premises are registered in the district under this Act including nine bakehouses (none underground), shoemakers, dress-makers, coachbuilder. They have been periodically inspected and generally found satisfactory. In two cases only were defects found, for want of cleanliness, and in both cases the defects were remedied after notice.

The following is from your Sanitary Inspector's Report:— Eight dwelling houses were inspected for foul conditions, structural defects, overcrowding, &c., formal notices for nuisances were issued in seven cases and in four the nuisances were abated. Two common Lodging Houses, 52 Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds, nine Bakehouses and seven Slaughter Houses were periodically inspected, in only two cases were nuisances found and these were abated after formal notices. Seventy-two inspections of ash-pits, privies, deposits of refuse and manure, in 52 cases formal notices had to be issued and 49 of these nuisances were abated. For defective house drainage, water supplies, pigsties and animals improperly kept, 34 inspections were made, and 26 formal notices for nuisances were issued, 22 of which were abated. One seizure of unwholesome food was made. Five dwelling houses and one school were disinfected after infectious disease. A total of 184 inspections were made, 87 formal notices were issued, and in 77 of these the nuisances were abated.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HOPE WILKES GOSSE,

March 13th, 1905.

M, O. H.